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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

8 SEP 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

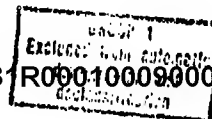
SUBJECT : CIA Views on National Security
Study Memorandum 57, Review of
US Civil Defense Policies

1. The Central Intelligence Agency has no official views concerning US civil defense policies. The role of CIA in the preparation of NSSM 57 was to estimate the future threat to the US and to assess the probable reaction of other countries to future US programs. In the case of US civil defense programs, it is the Soviet Union which would be likely to view most seriously any marked increase in US efforts.

2. It is likely that any response by the Soviets would be determined largely by their estimate of the degree to which passive US civil defense measures augmented the deployment of active defense systems--particularly those including ABMs. If the US active and passive programs taken together were assessed by the Soviets as providing effective protection for both population and industry, they would probably conclude that their ability to deter a US strategic nuclear attack would be jeopardized. With regard to active programs, for example, at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Deputy Foreign Minister Semenov stated that the "deployment by one side of an ABM system to a level which might give it confidence in the sufficiency of its invulnerability to a retaliatory strike might generate a temptation to use strategic offensive weapons against the other side." (28 November 1969)

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3. We have no direct information on the levels of damage and fatalities the Soviets calculate are necessary for deterrent purposes. Such evidence as we have on Soviet strategic targeting suggests that it is mainly concentrated on military installations and defense-related industries and not on population per se. Owing to the location of such targets close to large population centers in the US, however, civilian fatalities would be large and the Soviets probably think that this fact would strengthen the deterrent effect of their strategic attack forces.

R. E. Cushman, Jr.

R. E. Cushman, Jr.
Lieutenant General, USMC
Acting Director

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Memorandum 57, Review of US Civil
Defense Policies

CONCUR:

Deputy Director for Intelligence

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